

Tiger Habitats

5822. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA :
DR. C. SILVERA :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether financial support of the affluent nations to tiger range countries is very essential in order to keep tiger habitats inviolable;

(b) if so, the details thereof with steps proposed to be taken in this regard;

(c) whether protection of tiger habitats also depends upon the cooperation of people living along the periphery of tiger habitats; and

(d) if so, the details thereof with steps to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) Financial support from affluent nations will be of help in supplementing the National Tiger Conservation measures.

(b) Global Tiger Forum has been constituted by the Tiger Range Countries in order to facilitate the process. India is currently the Chairman of the Global Tiger Forum.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir. Central assistance is being provided to the State Governments for implementing the eco-development schemes for involving the local people of fringe villages and to reduce their dependence on protected area resources and thereby for conserving tiger habitats. The local people are also partners in the implementations of the scheme.

Police Excess

5823. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that police excess in the capital are rapidly increasing and have been placed 2nd in the position as reported in the "Hindustan Times", dated 12th March, 1997.

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken or propose to take any concrete steps in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) The Government have been the news-item in question. There are standing instructions in Delhi Police for

prevention of police excesses. The Government have also decided to set up a "Police Complaints Authority" for speedy redressal of complaints of the public against the acts of omission and commission on the part of the Delhi Police officials, including cases of inaction; harassment and misbehaviour; extortion and corruption; abuse of power and authority; non-registration of FIRs; and custodial crimes.

Pollution Measures

5824. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of air and water pollution measures adopted by the Fertilizers plant of FCI Talcher and also the Fertiliser plant at Rourkela, in Orissa;

(b) whether Government are aware of the inadequate attention paid by these fertilizer plants in controlling the air and water pollution;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps taken to ensure the control of water and air pollution by these two fertilizer plants; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) The air and water pollution control measures undertaken by the Central public sector fertiliser plants in the State of Orissa are as under:

(1) Talcher Unit of Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. (FCI).

- (i) Installation of Electrostatic Precipitator in steam generation service boilers.
- (ii) Installation of Ammonia Stripping Tower in urea plant for removal of ammonia from plant effluent.
- (iii) Discharge of effluent after settling in Ash Pond in the gasification and steam generation plant.

(2) Fertiliser Unit of Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) Rourkela.

- (i) Installation of four units of cyclones followed by Bag filters in the Limestone Crushing Unit.
- (ii) Installation of Vapour Scrubber in the Nitroline Plant to scrub the Ammonia Vapours from the neutrilliser.
- (iii) Alkali Scrubbing Units in the Nitric Acid Plant.
- (iv) Neutralisation pit and five oxidation ponds operated in series for waste water flow.

(b) and (c) Adequate attention is being paid by the afore-mentioned units for the control of air and water pollution. The Plants are also subjected to regular inspections by the Orissa Pollution Control Board.

(d) and (e) The fertiliser plants referred to in part (a) have installed various measures to check the water and air pollution. FCIs Talcher Unit has an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for control and disposal of all the pollutants, green belt development and environmental monitoring programmes etc. Close co-ordination is maintained by various departments of the plant for proper operation and maintenance of pollution control system with regular monitoring of the quality of the effluents, stack emission and ambient air quality.

The fertilizer unit of SAIL at Rourkela has engaged National Environment Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) to design cost effective and functional additional systems to meet the prescribed standards for discharge of liquid effluent into inland surface waters.

[Translation]

Post-matric Scholarships

5825. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULESTE : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether amount fixed for scholarship for post-matric is adequate keeping in view the present index;

(b) is not, the steps taken to enhance the amount of scholarship; and

(c) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

The MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (c) The maintenance allowance rates under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Post-matric Scholarship to students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have already been increased with effect from 1.10.1995, by about 50% in case of professional and technical courses and by about 30% in case of non-professional and non-technical courses. The maintenance allowance rates have been increased to the extent possible. In view of the financial constraints it is not possible to link it with the Price Index for Industrial Workers. However, income ceiling for eligibility is based on the consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers for October, 1995.

Caste Certificate to Bengali and Sindhis

5826. SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether caste certificates are not being given to the Bengali and Sindhi refugees who came from the Eastern and Western Pakistan and settled in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the reasons for neglecting them despite granting them the citizenship; and

(c) the efforts being made by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (c) Bengali and Sindhi are territorial names and not the names of communities. Members of these groups, if they belong to a particular community and if it is listed as a Scheduled Caste in that State at the time of acquiring Indian citizenship, then only they are eligible to be treated as members of a listed community.

[English]

TADA Cases

5827. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :
SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have examined the recommendations of the Committees, Experts and the judgement given in the courts for reconsideration to replace TADA;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the time by which the legislation in this regard is likely to be introduced;

(d) whether the courts have been finding it difficult to dispose of the cases due to lapse of TADA; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to dispose of the said cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (e) The erstwhile Terrorist & Disruptive Activities Act, 1987 whose constitutionality was upheld by the Hon'ble Supreme Court was allowed to lapse in May, 1995 because of the criticism that some of its provisions were allegedly misused. After detailed discussions with various State Governments and Leaders of Political Parties, Criminal Law Amendment Bill which sought to fill in the vacuum created by TADA was introduced in Rajya Sabha in May, 1995 and the same is pending in the House. The Bill broadly seeks to strike a balance between Human Rights concerns and the requirement to combat terrorism. Government would like to hold wider consultations on the various provisions of the above Bill before moving for its consideration by the Parliament. The Supreme Court in its Judgement of February 1996 categorised TADA detenu for grant of bail